

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04128 281654Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01  
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NEA-10 /120 W

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R 281605Z MAR 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5602  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
USMISSION BERLIN UNN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4128

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, GW, UR, WB  
SUBJECT: VAN WELL VISIT: BILATERAL ISSUES

REF: (A) MOSCOW 4069, (B) BONN 4641

1. SUMMARY. AS A RESULT OF VAN WELL VISIT GERMANS THINK  
THEY HAVE RESTARTED THE STALLED DIALOGUE WITH THE SOVIETS  
AND BELIEVE THERE CAN BE A FRG-USSR SUMMIT THIS FALL,  
POSSIBLY PRECEDED BY A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING THIS  
SUMMER. THEY MADE MINIMAL PROGRESS ON CONCRETE BILATERAL  
ISSUES, MOST OF WHICH INVOLVE BERLIN. ON THE LATTER THERE  
WERE DISCUSSIONS, BUT NO CHANGES OF POSITION. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 04128 281654Z

2. VISIT OF FRG FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN  
WELL MARCH 22-24 WAS PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON BILATERAL  
AFFAIRS, ALTHOUGH MULTILATERAL ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED  
(REPORTED REFTEL A). SOVIET THIRD EUROPEAN DIVISION  
CHIEF BONDARENKO WAS VAN WELL'S INTERLOCUTOR FOR THE  
BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. ON THE WHOLE THE GERMANS WERE  
PLEASED WITH THE SOVIET ATTITUDES AND THOUGHT THAT

SOVIET POSITION ON THE BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN INDICATED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. BERLIN WAS THE MAJOR ISSUE AND, ACCORDING TO VAN WELL, THE SOVIET POSITION WAS UNCHANGED, BUT THE ATMOSPHERE WAS MORE PLEASANT. ON THIS AND OTHER MATTERS THE SOVIETS SHOWED A DESIRE TO RESUME THE DIALOGUE. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN BILATERAL SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AS GATHERED FROM VAN WELL AND FROM FRG EMBOFF WHO ATTENDED THE MEETINGS.

3. SCHMIDT LETTER: VAN WELL BROUGHT A LETTER FROM CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TO GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE PLANNED SUMMIT MEETING OF THE TWO. (COMMENT: FRG EMBOFF WAS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS CONTENTS, SAYING THAT THIS WOULD BE DONE BY OFFICIALS IN BONN.) ALTHOUGH NOTHING CONCRETE WAS DECIDED, THE IMPRESSIONS GATHERED BY FRG OFFICIALS AT THE MEETINGS WAS THAT A SUMMIT MEETING COULD TAKE PLACE THIS AUTUMN PROBABLY WITH A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS SOMETIME THIS SUMMER TO PAVE THE WAY.

4. THREE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS: ONLY THE CULTURAL PROTOCOL AND THE SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT RECEIVED ATTENTION; THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE DISCUSSED IN THE TIME AVAILABLE. THE DISPUTE IN CULTURAL DOCUMENT ON HOW TO DESCRIBE WHICH MEMBERS OF THE GERMAN SOCIETY COULD TAKE PART IN THE EXCHANGES (REFTEL B) WAS RESOLVED BY AGREEING TO THE WORLD "IHRE" ("THEIR") WITH A SOVIET DISCLAIMER THAT THEY COULD NOT COOPERATE WITH ANY INSTITUTIONS IN BERLIN UNDER CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 04128 281654Z

THE AGREEMENT. THERE WAS AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD DEAL WITH INDIVIDUALS LOCATED IN BERLIN, AS INDIVIDUALS, BUT NOT WITH THE BRANCHES OF THE GERMAN SOCIETY TO WHICH THEY BELONGED IF THESE INSTITUTIONS WERE LOCATED IN BERLIN. ON THE SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT, THE FRG DELEGATION ALSO DISCUSSED BERLIN RELATED ISSUES IN AN ATTEMPT TO MOVE FORWARD AND PRESENTED A NEW TEXT WHICH APPARENTLY TRIED TO INCORPORATE DISPARATE ELEMENTS OF OLDER TEXTS. THE SOVIETS DID NOT REPLY.

5. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION: VAN WELL RESERVED THE RIGHT TO NAME A BERLIN PERSONALITY AS A MEMBER OF THE FRG DELEGATION, BUT, GIVEN THE SOVIET OBJECTION, HE CONSIDERS THIS POINT TO BE ACADEMIC. THERE WAS AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS TO THE PARTICIPATION OF A BERLINER IN THE WORKING GROUP PREPARING FOR THE MEETINGS OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION, BUT ONLY AS A WORKING GROUP EXPERT.

6. OTHER BERLIN ISSUES: REGARDING THE WORLD SWIMMING

CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULED IN BERLIN IN AUGUST 1978, THE SOVIETS SAID THEY HAD HEARD FROM THE SENAT AND THE ORGANZIAATION COMMITTEE THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS NOT PREPARED TO SEND THE PROPER INVITATION AS REQUIRED IN THE QA, BECAUSE COMMITTEE REGULATIONS WOULD NOT PERMIT SUCH AN INVITATION, AND BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT A GOVERNMENTAL ORGANZIATION. IF THIS POSITION WERE MAINTAINED, THEY ARGUED, THE SOVIET SPORTING COMMITTEE WOULD OPPOSE ANY INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENT BEING HELD IN BERLIN. FURTHERMORE, IF THE FRG TOOK THE POSITION THAT THESE QA REQUIREMENTS DO NOT APPLY, THE SOVIETS WOULD CLAIM IN RETURN THAT SUCH QA REQUIREMENTS DO NOT APPLY TO BERLIN PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS HELD IN THE USSR. (COMMENT. APPARENTLY A REFERENCE TO THE COMING OLYMPICS.) VAN WELL RESPONDED THAT IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE QA THAT THE INVITATION PROCESS DID NOT APPLY TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES, BUT THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 04128 281654Z

THE FRG WAS PREPARED TO COOPERATE BY REQUESTING THE SPORTING GROUPS INVOLVED TO SEND THE INVITATION THE SOVIETS DEMAND. SOMEHTING FRG HAS DONE IN THE PAST, WE ARE TOLD.

7. REPATRIATION. VAN WELL APPARENTLY RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT REPATRIATION OF GERMANS TO THE FRG FROM THE USSR WOULD CONTINUE. LAST YEAR'S FIGURE WAS ABOUT 10,000. ON THIS POINT THE GERMANS ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT SOVIET INVALIDATION OF PASSPORTS OF SOVIET CITIZENS WHO EMIGRATED TO THE FRG. THIS PRACTICE, ACCORDING TO GHE GERMANS, MADE CONSULAR AFFAIRS BETWEEN THE TWO STATES MORE DIFFICULT AND, MOREOVER, WAS CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CONTRAVENED THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

8. GERMAN PRESS COVERAGE OF USSR. BONDARENKO CRITICIZED WHAT HE CALLED THE NEGATIVE REPORTING ABOUT THE USSR BY FRG MEDIA, PARTICULARLY THE WRITTEN PRESS AND TV NEWS PROGRAMS. HE ARGUED THAT THIS VIOLATED THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. VAN WELL RESPONDED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT ON THE WHOLE FRG MEDIA REPORTING SHOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM BUT THAT THE USSR WAS NOT DOING ENOUGH TO IMPLEMENT THE FINAL ACT WITH RESPECT TO JOURNALISTS AND THAT IT SHOULD BE MORE LIBERAL IN ADMITTING FRG JOURNALISTS TO THE SOVIET UNION AND IN PROVIDING THOSE THERE WITH ADEQUATE FACILITIES.

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